



# BUDGET COMMITTEE



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**Senator Gregg's Senate Floor Remarks on  
the Budget Point of Order Against the Farm Bill  
May 15, 2008  
(unofficial transcript)**

I would simply make this point in response to this discussion about this bill and the budget. There is no way that anybody with a straight face can represent that this bill is fiscally responsible in the context of the budget.

When this bill left the Senate, it was at \$285 billion. It's now at \$300 billion. This bill has \$18 billion worth of gimmicks in it. The tax years are changed for corporations to pick up money. There is an attempt to adjust programs so that some basically disappear after a certain number of years on the theory that then they won't score, knowing full well that those programs are going to be continued.

We also have a situation where this bill violated the Pay-Go rules in the House and would violate the Pay-Go rules of the Senate, to the extent they're ever enforced around here, if we had passed the Senate budget.

The irony is that this bill comes to the floor before the budget, which was voted on and voted in favor of by the Democratic membership of this Congress and this Senate. That Democratic budget is violated in this bill. Now, I have to tell you if a Democratic budget which spends a heck of a lot of money is violated, then obviously the bill itself is spending a lot of money.

And, in addition, it uses gimmicks like the custom users' fees. It uses gimmicks such as this adjustment of Pay-Go. And it ends up, even using all those gimmicks -- \$18 billion worth of gimmicks -- it with a budget point of order against it, which is legitimate.

So the budget is violated here. This bill spends money outside the budget, and that budget point of order should not be waived.